

filed on December 21, 2001 and a certified copy of the priority document was submitted concurrently therewith in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §119. Additionally, a verified English-language translation of the priority document is submitted concurrently herewith which includes a statement that the translation is accurate in compliance with MPEP §201.13.

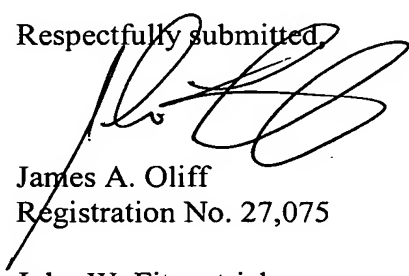
As Dwyer is not available to form the basis of rejection of the application, Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 8-9, 11-15, 19 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request rejection of claims 1-3, 8-9, 11-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foreign, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 22, 2004

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